

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

July/August 2015

BUS SERVICES AT RISK



As further austerity cuts continue to bite at local councils, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has announced that it needs to save more than £6 million on supported transport services. OCC subsidises over 100 bus services in the county and for Claydon this involves the Stagecoach 277 service (in partnership with Warwickshire County Council), the County Connect service (in partnership with Northants County Council) and Dial-a-Ride.

A consultation document has been produced and various options suggested, including the withdrawal of all bus subsidies. The Dial-a-Ride service will almost certainly be discontinued, but the hope is that a voluntary service will then take over.

Copies of the document and response questionnaires are available from Banbury Library, or online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stconsultation. The deadline for responses is **14th September**.

Everybody, especially bus users (however infrequent) are urged to take part in the consultation. The bus service is a valuable asset to the village and we must make the argument to retain it.

PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council meeting on 14th July, existing councillors David Hill, Anne Hoggins and Rob Jones co-opted Richard Millward and Jenny Jones to the Parish Council. Rob Jones was elected as Vice-Chairman. The Chairman, David Hill also announced his intention to leave the village in the near future, which will create another vacancy.

BUS SHELTER

Plans for the bus shelter fell foul of the rule which requires paperwork to be submitted to the Parish Clerk 12 clear days before the Parish Council meeting in order for the subject to be placed on the agenda. As the topic was not on the agenda no decisions could be made, but the meeting was informed of the situation regarding the erection of a shelter on the Village Green.

As the Lower Green is registered, it is covered by Section 29 of the Commons Act 1876 which stipulates that 'it is a public nuisance to erect any structure other than for the purpose of better enjoyment of the green'. The Chairman has therefore been in contact with Dr Rose Todd who is Head of the Design & Conservation Team at Cherwell District Council (CDC) who has agreed to visit the village and pass her opinion on the suitability of the site.

Guidance is also being sought from the Open Spaces Society and Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

OTHER PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Meeting on 14th July was attended by District Councillor Ken Attack. The following further items were discussed:

HS2 IMPACT

There will be major transport implications from the disposal of spoil during the construction of HS2 in the local area. Spoil from the Chipping Warden side of the line will be transported along the A361 through Wardington and on to Banbury. Spoil from the Claydon side will be routed along the A423. The number of vehicle trips is expected to increase to 1300 per day at its peak and continue at this level for around 2 years. The total construction period is expected to be 5 years.

Councillor Attack will set up a group comprised of members of the local parishes to be involved in the local transport discussions. Two Claydon Parish Councillors will be part of the group. Suggestions to be followed up include contacting Network Rail to benefit from the recent experience of moving spoil at the Harbury Cutting and the possibility of enforcement of the weight limits on minor roads if vehicles begin rat running across country.

CAR TRANSPORTERS

Following complaints regarding car transporters driving through both Claydon and Cropredy, Councillor Attack visited the Chipping Warden site to find that there are 3 major car businesses operating there, of which the largest is Ambrosetti. The General Manager, Steve Berry is very keen to stamp out the local issues and problems which are apparently largely due to contract workers. He would like to know of each and every traffic violation whereby vehicles are using the local roads rather than the A361 to access the Chipping Warden site.

Please report company name, registration number of offending transporter vehicles and timings to (s.berry@ambrosetti.co.uk / 07794 000813 or 01304 621211) so that problems can be nipped in the bud and the other car suppliers informed. *(The photographs of a transporter load of yellow Ford vans, sent by a resident on 22nd July, were welcomed by Mr Berry).*

GRASS CUTTING

As OCC will only fund 2 cuts of the village verges this year, the Parish Council has arranged to fund further grass cutting. So far there has been one cut by OCC and one paid for by the Parish Council at a cost of £150.

CLAYDON CHURCHYARD

Following several complaints regarding the poor state of the churchyard, the Chairman has contacted the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and been informed that a contractor has been employed and that the improvement will be in stages as considerable effort is required to reduce the height of the overgrown grass.

Several volunteers also regularly cut and tidy small sections of the churchyard and it has been noted that the contractor was witnessed cutting areas which did not require any work. There is therefore concern that the contractor may be charging for work that is not required when funds allocated to grass cutting are limited.

If the PCC wishes to use an alternative contractor, the one employed to cut the village verges has quoted £90 for the first cut, and £70 for subsequent cuts.

(See Don Siviter's letter later in this issue).

BROADBAND

Councillor Atack confirmed that CDC had underspent on its support of faster broadband to the first 90% of households and Claydon is due to be addressed in 2016. It is not guaranteed to cover all properties within the parish.

However, following the Parish Liaison Meeting on 10th June the likely date announced for properties connected to the Farnborough exchange was the end of 2017. It is already available to properties at Claydon Hay connected to the Byfield exchange.

FINANCE

As at 14th July the bank balance stood at £7173.13

ALLOTMENTS

Several tenants are to be reminded that if they are not intending to cultivate their plots, the weeds should be cut down.

There is currently one vacant plot. If anyone is interested in taking on a plot please contact the Parish Clerk on 07810 441682 or claydonwithclattercotepc@yahoo.co.uk.

GRIT BINS

In preparations for winter the Parish Council is considering the purchase of additional grit bins, one to be placed at the end of Bignolds Close and the other in Manor Park.

Residents are reminded that the salt provided is for roads and pathways only and not for personal use.

STANDING ORDERS

Standing orders are the rules by which the Parish Council operates. They incorporate statutory requirements plus other requirements specific to this Parish Council. Apparently for many years Claydon operated without any.

They Standing Orders for Claydon with Clattercote will be considered at the next Parish Council Meeting.

CLAYDON SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

Following an equipment failure, Thames Water is undertaking a critical tanker operation from Claydon Sewage Treatment Works (STW) over the next couple of months. The company apologises for the inconvenience, and will make every effort to minimise disruption.

There will be an increase in tanker movements in and out of the STW on the Lower Boddington Road as a 7 day per week operation for approximately 8 weeks. Wastewater services will be maintained throughout the work. It will not affect the water supply and access for emergency vehicles and refuse collection will be unaffected.

The customer centre can be contacted on 0800 316 9800. Please quote bulletin board number 968770. The lines are always open.

Another Successful Village Event

July saw the annual village dog show and summer event. This year we worked with representatives from the Church and the Jubilee Group to raise monies for three different causes in the village.

Our joint hard work paid off as we saw c150 people attend the fete - including our MP, Victoria Prentis and her family. With more stalls and more doggie visitors than ever, we were lucky to have brilliant sunshine and raised over £1,100 for the village.

This year we had a cake baking competition as well as the tombola, book stall, bottle stall, card stall, craft activities, face painting and a very popular polypin of Hook Norton Ale.

We couldn't have done it without the help of the villagers (and beyond) who provided much needed support, whether it is baking cakes, advertising, making signs, shopping, putting up the marquee, manning the stalls, asking people for raffle prizes, selling raffle tickets, the post event tidy-up or coming down and supporting on the day. Thank you to everyone involved.

The committee are delighted to announce that by the end of August we anticipate that we will have enough money to be able to purchase and install the basket swing for the play area. In addition to monies raised by the committee and sub-committee, we have received a grant of £250 from the Heart of England Co-operative.

We are currently considering whether to run the jumble event this year or postpone it until next year.

If anyone would like to get involved with the committee on a regular basis - or just on a casual basis, please contact any member of the existing committee.

Overall the event meant many villagers and groups pulled together, had fun and raised some funds. It's great what Claydonians can do when we work together.

Ready to do it again next year?

Pamela, Emma, Garry & Mike
Claydon Playing Field Management Committee

Congratulations

to Bethany Ferguson on gaining a 2.1 degree in physiotherapy from Liverpool University. She will be taking up a post at Liverpool University Hospital.

Operation Churchyard!

Villagers may have noticed that the churchyard is badly in need of a little TLC. There is a small band of enthusiastic! Volunteers who are attempting to help mow the grass and clean the church. They could do with a bit of support. Although there is a contractor who is paid to cut the grass, it is difficult because of the nature and arrangement of the gravestones to mow effectively. Yes I know the present state of the lack of mowing is simply neglect, but simply moaning about it is not going to remedy the situation.

So if you can spare the time and have a grass mower or a strimmer go ahead and pick a suitable piece of the churchyard and tidy up. Needless to say be careful not to damage the graves and gravestones. I am certain that the PCC would wholeheartedly welcome your assistance.

We may not attend services or truly believe but 'the church' is an historical community institution where we are able to have our children baptised, marriages arranged, pay tribute to the fallen in past wars, and bury our dead. Surely we owe some respect to that heritage.

Don Siviter

CLUSTER CARE VACANCY

The Cluster Care Group which meets every Tuesday at the Cropredy Cricket Pavilion, has a vacancy for a new member. Cluster provides an opportunity for people to meet up and have a chat. There are activities including talks, crafts and games. A meal is provided. If you know an elderly person who would benefit from attending the group please contact the Organiser Moya Reed on 01295 758531.

Editorial

It is not an ideal situation for the Editor of the Newsletter to also be a Parish Councillor. It would be much better if a report on the Parish Council News could come from an independent source.

Therefore if anyone would like to take over the reporting of Parish Council News, please let me know.

Jenny Jones

Diary Dates

BEETLE DRIVE

Wednesday 5th August at 2.30 pm in the Church Room

LADIES' CURRY NIGHT – Indian takeaway & bring a bottle

Thursday 6th August at 7.30 pm in the Church Room

Food orders need to be placed with Jess (on 670774) before 1st August

OVER SIXTIES FILM

The next film showing will take place in the Church Room at 2.00 pm on

Friday 7th August

starring Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy, Dev Patel, Celia Imrie and Richard Gere in

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 19th August at 10.30 am in the Church Room

CLUSTER CARE GROUP CAR BOOT & COFFEE MORNING with assorted stalls

Tuesday 1st September from 10.30 am to 2.00 pm

at Cropredy Sports Pavilion

Cars set up from 9.30 am. Cost £5

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 15th September at 7.30 pm in the Church Room

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